

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum tumbler for marinating food products within a liquid, the vacuum tumbler comprising:

a container having an interior wall, said interior wall defining a chamber for containing the liquid, the chamber defining a longitudinal axis extending therethrough and having a length measured along the longitudinal axis;

a rib extending inwardly from said interior wall generally toward the longitudinal axis at least one-quarter of the distance across said chamber along substantially the entire length of the chamber;

a drive for moving the container so that the rib brings the food products into and out of contact with the liquid; and

a vacuum source for creating a partial vacuum within said chamber.

2. (Original) The tumbler of claim 1 wherein said drive rotates said container about an axis of rotation and said rib extends toward said axis of rotation.

3. (Previously Presented) The tumbler of claim 2 wherein said rib is in a plane with the axis of rotation.

4. (Original) The tumbler of claim 1 wherein the tumbler includes only a single rib.

5. (Original) The tumbler of claim 1 wherein said rib is perforated.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Original) The tumbler of claim 1 wherein said chamber is cylindrical.

8. (Previously Presented) The tumbler of claim 7 wherein said drive rotates said container about said longitudinal axis.

9. (Previously Presented) The tumbler of claim 8 wherein said rib is in a plane with said longitudinal axis and said rib extends at least one-half of the radius of said chamber across said chamber.

10. (Original) The tumbler of claim 9 wherein said rib extends a distance across said chamber approximately equal to the radius of said chamber.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Original) The tumbler of claim 1 wherein said rib is part of an insert secured to said interior wall.

15. (Original) The tumbler of claim 14 wherein said insert includes a mounting section having an inner surface, an outer surface, said outer surface being shaped to mate with a portion of said interior wall within said container and said rib extending from said inner surface into said chamber, said mounting section also including opposing edges with extensions projecting from said opposing edges into said chamber, said container including projections extending inward from said interior wall into said chamber such that said extensions on said mounting section are compressed between said projections.

Claims 16-23 (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) A device for marinating food products within a liquid, the device comprising:

a container having an interior wall defining a chamber for containing the liquid, the chamber including a first end and second end and having a length measured therebetween;

a shelf extending, along at least one-half of the length of the chamber, away from the interior wall and through the chamber across at least a quarter of the distance across said chamber in the direction the shelf extends away from the interior wall;

a drive for maneuvering said shelf to bring the food products into and out of contact with the liquid; and

a vacuum source for creating a partial vacuum within said chamber.

25. (Original) The device of claim 24 wherein said shelf is perforated.

26. (Original) The device of claim 25 wherein said shelf extends across said entire chamber.

Claims 27-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The tumbler of claim 1 wherein the rib is substantially planar.

33. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24 wherein the shelf is connected to the interior wall.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24 wherein the drive rotates the container about an axis of rotation and the shelf extends generally toward the axis of rotation.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34 wherein the shelf is in a plane with the axis of rotation.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24 wherein the device includes only a single shelf.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24 wherein the shelf is perforated.

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24 wherein the chamber is cylindrical.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38 wherein the chamber includes a longitudinal axis, the drive rotating the container about the longitudinal axis.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 39 wherein the shelf is in a plane with the longitudinal axis and the shelf extends at least one-half of the radius of the chamber across the chamber.

41. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 40 wherein the shelf extends a distance across the chamber approximately equal to the radius of the chamber.

42. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 39 ~~wherein the chamber has a length in the direction of the longitudinal axis, and~~ wherein the shelf extends substantially the entire length of the chamber.

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24 wherein the shelf is part of an insert secured to the interior wall.

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 43 wherein the insert includes a mounting section having an inner surface, an outer surface, the outer surface being shaped to mate with a portion of the interior wall within the container and the shelf extending from the inner surface into the chamber, the mounting section also including opposing edges with extensions projecting from the opposing edges into the chamber, the container including projections extending inward from the interior wall into the chamber such that the extensions on the mounting section are compressed between the projections.

45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24 wherein the shelf is substantially planar.

Claims 46-53 (Cancelled).